

I) **V1-2 INTRO: In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar**

**We begin our study of Daniel by first looking at a prophecy by Jeremiah  
After the death of Solomon Israel divided into two  
The northern tribes were called Israel, and the southern, Judah**

II) **The prophet Jeremiah (627-580 BC) prophesied judgment of 70 a year captivity  
Jer 25:10-11 (God said) I will take from them the voice of mirth and the  
voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound  
of the millstones and the light of the lamp. And this whole land shall be a desolation  
and an astonishment, and these nations *shall serve the king of Babylon seventy  
years***

III) **The reason that God was bringing judgment is because they had disregarded  
His Law**

IV) **God had warned Israel that to ignore His Law was to result in His judgment  
2 Chron 7:19-21 If you turn away and forsake My statutes and My  
commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and  
worship them, then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this  
house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it  
a proverb and a byword among all peoples. And as for this house, which is exalted,  
everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus  
to this land and this house?'**

V) **In spite of God's warnings, as is common, they ignored Him and did what they  
desired**

**They had practiced idolatry that earmarked the false religions of the  
pagans**

**Jer 2:11 Has a nation ever changed its God? (Yet they are not gods at  
all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols (2 Chron  
36)**

VI) **They also disregarded His command to observe the sabbatical year**

**Lev 25:3-4 For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your  
vineyards and gather their crops. But in *the seventh year* the land is to have a  
year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord. Do not sow your fields or prune  
your vineyards.**

VII) **By the time of Daniel Israel had neglected the sabbatical year for 490  
years**

**This was to result in a judgment of 70 years of captivity, in**

## **Babylon**

**Jer 29:10-14** For thus says the LORD: After *seventy years* are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

I) The Book of Daniel covers the entire 70 year period of Babylonian captivity (605-536 BC)

It begins during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, and concludes with King Darius

II) History records that Babylon became a world power by overthrowing Assyria in 612 BC

After overthrowing Nineveh, Babylon became master of the Middle East, defeating the Egyptian armies in 605 BC, and then invaded Isreal and sacked Jerusalem

III) Babylon actually invaded Israel on three separate occasions: 605, 597 and 586 BC

IV) Daniel was taken captive and deported to Babylon when he was around 14-16  
As part of the nobility of Israel, he and his friends were part of the first group taken

V) In Babylon he held a high government position but was first and foremost a prophet

As such, he spoke for God and also wrote this book

VI) There are questions of who wrote Daniel, but various times he is identified as author

This is noticed in 7:2, 8:1, 9:2, 10:2, and 12:4-5

VII) The book of Daniel is divided into two parts  
Ch 1-6 is historical, chapters 7-12 are prophetic

VIII) Finally: Chapter 1 is written in Hebrew, but from chapters 2:4 to 7:28 it is in Aramaic

IX) Aramaic was the common language of Daniel's day, and was used by many

There are also Greek words (describing musical instruments-ch 3) as well as some Persian words:

These words are used because what is written relates to Gentiles

X) It returns to Hebrew in Ch 8 because it speaks of Israel in relation to Gentiles

XI) V1-2 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah Nebuchadnezzar king

XII) I pointed out that Israel was judged because she ignored God's laws and was idolatrous

XIII) There is another reason why God allowed this pagan king to overthrow Jerusalem

XIV) In the days of King Hezekiah, Babylon had sent ambassadors to see him in Jerusalem

God used this as an opportunity to reveal what was in his heart

2 Chron 32:31 However, regarding the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, whom they sent to him to inquire about the wonder that was done in the land, God withdrew from him, in order to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart.

I) Hezekiah was *moved with pride* and showed all his treasures to them

2 Ki 20:13 Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures--the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory--all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them

II) Because of this Isaiah was sent to Hezekiah and asked him what they had seen Hezekiah replied that he had showed them everything he had

2 Ki 20:16-18 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD: 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the Lord. And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

III) This judgment began to take place in 605 BC

IV) This, along with idolatry and failure to observe sabbatical years resulted in judgment

Jer 34:21-22 And I will give Zedekiah king of Judah and his princes into the hand of their enemies, into the hand of those who seek their life, and into the

hand of the king of Babylon's army which has gone back from you. Behold, I will command,' says the LORD, 'and cause them to return to this city. They will fight against it and take it and burn it with fire; and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without inhabitant.

V) God had said that they would remain in Babylon for 70 years  
After the 70 years are finished, He would punish their captors  
Jer 25:12 'Then it will come to pass, when *seventy years* are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the LORD; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation

VI) V2 BABYLON (IRAQ) DESCENDED UPON ISRAEL: And literally fulfilled this prophecy

2 Chron 36:18-21 And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon. Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions. And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

VII) V3-5 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the

The king commanded that some of the Jewish nobility be brought to Babylon

I) V2 Ashpenaz is the master of the king's eunuchs  
Some believe these were castrated men, but others say this speaks of court officers

II) These children of Israel were of the nobility, or royal families  
They are called children of Israel to reveal they are Jews

III) Why would the king command that the young men be brought to Babylon  
These young people were hostages and could be used by the king as mediators

IV) Also, as long as they were in his court they would serve as reminders to the king  
He and others would see them as emblems of his power: he took them

**captive**

- V) V4 NOTICE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS: They are obviously incredible young men  
They were young men around 15-20  
Those in the longest service would be the easiest to influence**
- VI) No blemish: They had no exterior physical or moral stain  
Good looking: Attractive to view  
Gifted in all wisdom: They were superior in understanding, perceptive; skilled,  
prudent  
Possessing knowledge: They were trained and had educational experience  
Quick to understand: Able to be taught, bright; sharp minded; a quick learner**
- VII) These are qualities any employer looks for, even more so for those serving  
Royalty!**
- VIII) He taught them the *language* and the *literature* of the Chaldeans  
Chaldean speaks of both the nation (Babylon) as well as the Religious  
leaders  
It speaks of the learning of the magi, astrologers, dream interpreters,  
and sorcerors**
- IX) The king is attempting to train their minds *to think* as Babylonians  
He used the language and religion of Babylon to re-program their minds**
- X) He was using the general education as well as the specific training of  
Chaldeans  
This was intended to brainwash them**
- XI) The basic elements of education would not necessarily have been violating  
their faith  
General elements of education don't necessarily wipe away religious  
faith  
What would have been more damaging was the mixing of their  
education with religion**
- XII) The environment and cultural indoctrination would have proven more  
challenging  
The atmosphere of Chaldean culture, unless resisted, could mold them  
into pagans**
- I) V5 And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies  
He wanted to destroy their national identity and make them forget their**

## **Jewish culture**

**II) Nebuchadnezzar was doing everything he could to rebuild them into Babylonians**

**He wanted to teach them the language and literature of the Chaldeans to convert them**

**III) These were young boys, over 900 miles away from home**

**They are alone, possibly orphaned, from a once proud nation that has been humbled**

**IV) He gave them a new culture, different food, manner of dress, new customs and religion**

**He gives them a new language: The transmitter of ethical, moral, and religious values**

**V) Language is not like the color of our eyes, our complexion or hair color**

**We do not inherit language from our parents, we acquire it in a culture that speaks it**

**It is the means of communicating and developing what we consider reality**

**VI) He also immersed them in the religious beliefs of the Babylonians**

**This was an attempt to cause them to forget the God of Israel and become Babylonians**

**VII) V5 They had delicacies, vintage wine and educational scholarships: a 3 year full ride!**

**They are young, impressionable and at his mercy: He is the greatest king on earth**

**VIII) They are in a city of incredible power and majesty**

**They saw the hanging gardens of Babylon, one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world**

**There were numerous temples, parks, armaments**

**IX) Babylon was about 14 miles square, had great outer walls 87 feet thick, 350 feet high and 100 great bronze gates in the walls. It had inner and outer walls, and a water moat between the walls made it secure. Chariots four abreast could parade on its top. Towers reaching another 100 feet were on top of the wall.**

**X) Imagine what a teen-aged boy was thinking when he saw all of this**

**To be invited to be part of all of this was an enormous temptation**

- XI) V6-7 Now from among those of the *sons of Judah* were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and
- Daniel: Belteshazzar: May Bel (a chief Babylonian god) protect his life
  - Hananiah: Shadrach: Command of Aku (the moon god)
  - Mishael: Meshach: Who is what Aku is?
  - Azariah: Abed-nego: Servant of Nebo (considered to be the son of Bel)
- XII) This was done to give credit to the Babylonian gods who gave them victory
- I) Also, to continue converting them, he gave them Babylonian names
  - II) Obviously, your name is your identity  
To take away your name is to strip you of your self identity
  - III) Notice that *sons* of Judah are mentioned, but only four are highlighted  
This may be because the other sons of Judah gave in to the temptation
  - IV) Ezra records how the Persian King Cyrus permitted those who wanted to return to Israel  
The 70 year captivity was concluded and they were released
  - V) At that time, (538 BC) *only* around 50,00 returned (Ezra 2:64-65)  
The rest of the captives had become comfortable
  - VI) Why didn't they succumb to the temptation to compromise
  - VII) The first clue is found in the names of these young men  
Daniel: God is my Judge  
Hananiah: Jehovah is Gracious  
Mishael: Who is He that is God?  
Azariah: Jehovah has helped
  - VIII) They were trained by godly parents (VBS is going great-296 servants)  
They laid a strong foundation in their lives, even to the selection of their *names*  
Buffy, Bucky, Tawny and Toby!
  - IX) Even in the time of Israel's growing unbelief, their parents trained them in God's ways  
Though Judah had sunk into idolatry and disobedience, these parents had not
  - X) **SECOND**: Daniel was spiritually perceptive: (Which was already noted-V4)

**XI) V8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion**

**He was aware that the meat was not kosher, and neither was the wine  
These were foods that had been offered to idols**

**XII) Daniel saw this as a test of their faithfulness to God and His law  
These foods were first offered to devils, and he would not compromise  
1 Co 10:20-21 No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to  
demons, *not to God*, and I do not want you to be participants with  
demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you  
cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.**

**I) He acted on what he discerned, aware of Satan's lures, and refused the food  
and wine**

**He knew Satan would use these kinds of traps to get him to compromise  
and fail**

**II) This food was more than likely offered to idols before it was cooked and  
served**

**It did not meet the Jewish standards of cleanliness: He would not  
compromise**

**III) Dietary law intended to present a tangible evidence of separation to God  
Lev 20:25-26 `You shall therefore distinguish between clean animals and  
unclean, between unclean birds and clean, and you shall not make yourselves  
abominable by beast or by bird, or by any kind of living thing that creeps on the  
ground, which I have separated from you as unclean. And you shall be holy to Me, for  
I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be  
Mine.**

**IV) Christian believers are to be aware of what can cause us to compromise, and  
avoid it**

**2 Co 6: 17-18 Come out from among them and be separate, says the  
Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you,  
and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.**

**V) V9-10 God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the  
eunuchs**

**Daniel was a pleasant young man, and was liked by the official  
Pr 16:7 When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his  
enemies to be at peace with him.**



- VI) **THIRD: He was principled, but not antagonistic or confrontational but was compassionate**  
**Video of woman in restaurant unwilling to wear mask: angry, then screaming Jesus**
- VII) **He did not want the official to suffer on his account**  
**He literally could have lost his life if Daniel looked weak or uncared for**
- VIII) **V11-13 So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over**  
**Daniel spoke to the one who had been given immediate charge of caring for him**  
**Though he spoke to the chief, he now speaks to the lower official**
- IX) **Daniel proposed a ten day test, a sufficient time to judge without real danger**  
**He and his friends lived on a vegetable diet and drank water**
- X) **FOURTH: He was a man of faith who fellowshipped with others of faith**  
**He was not alone, but a group of believers supporting one another Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**
- I) **V14-16 So he consented with them in this matter and tested them ten days**  
**This is because God had brought Daniel into the favor and good will of this man**  
**Pr 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; like the rivers of water He turns it wherever He wishes**
- II) **V17 As for these four young men God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature**
- III) **This summarizes their three years of graduate school**  
**In addition to their natural abilities, God also gave them grace**  
**They applied themselves, and God blessed their efforts**
- IV) **V17 God gave them knowledge and skill in all the literature**  
**They had an understanding of the literature and wisdom of Babylon**
- V) **They did not simply memorize and repeat what they were taught**  
**By His grace, God also gave them discernment into its true meaning**
- VI) **They were not seduced by it: Test things by what you know is true**  
**1 Th 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good**

**VII) Though they were all given grace, only Daniel had understanding in visions and dreams**

**Daniel was given the ability to interpret dreams, as we shall see  
                    He also was given the ability of discerning a true dream from God from simply a dream**

**VIII) V18-21 Now at the end of the days when the king had said that they should be brought in**

**After his personal interview, the king sees that they are amazing and superior**

**They passed the interview and were placed in high positions of influence**

**IX) Daniel continued serving and even continued after Babylon fell under King Cyrus**

**X) When you have a solid rock foundation, then you are secure**

**Ps 119: 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.**